

Welcome to the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council!

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) works to support people with developmental disabilities to achieve life dreams. The 21-member Council is appointed by the Governor, and supported by a Lansing-based staff. Meetings of the Council are public - anyone may attend.

The Council works to assure that people with developmental disabilities are fully included in their communities and in charge of their lives. The Council advocates for systems change to improve community supports so that people can be as independent as possible.

A strong voice

The Council works to ensure that the voices of people with disabilities are heard. It speaks with them to the governor and other policy makers. It supports them in directing their own lives.

The DD Council works with its partners to create and sustain opportunities for housing, education, transportation, employment, health, recreation... nearly every experience

of American life. Its outreach includes support for all families, recognizing diversity, and supporting grassroots advocacy.

Staying in touch with those who make policy and laws is very important. The Council informs people about the political process, sponsors a legislative event, promotes voting and supports other activities to increase the political clout of people with developmental disabilities. The political process is the most powerful tool for change.

Working Together

Council members, staff, RICCs and grantees partner with allies to change systems that aid people with disabilities as they take charge of their own lives.

Advisory committees and work groups are open to anyone. They work to support and advise the Council on the best ways to reach its goals.

The **Public Policy Committee** advises the Council on legislative issues and recommends policy, positions and strategies for change.

The **Program Committee** oversees grant making and the grant projects resulting from the Council's five-year plan of action.

The **Multicultural Committee** is charged with incorporating cultural diversity into Council activities.

The **Family Support Work Group** is a statewide forum to increase the quality, availability, and range of family support services, and to expand awareness of the need and benefits of family support services.

The **Transportation Work Group** advocates for increased availability of comprehensive statewide transportation services that are accessible, affordable, and available.

The **Education Work Group** promotes Universal Education for all children, all together, all the time. It advises the Council, and makes suggestions to the state board and Department of Education on strategies for implementing Universal Education.

The Council's **Health Issues Work Group** responds to health concerns of persons with disabilities by: (a) developing a health issues advocacy agenda, including action strategies,

and (b) identifying health related projects for potential council funding.

The **Housing Work Group** develops housing policy and strategies for the Council. It promotes the availability of (a) safe, affordable, accessible housing of the person's choice, and (b) needed supports wherever the person chooses to live.

Money Well Spent

The Council offers grants to non-profit and government agencies to carry out the system change strategies in its Five-Year Strategic Plan.

The Council has awarded more than \$30 million in grants over the past 20 years. The effects of those grant projects are still felt today. While specifics may vary from year to year, all grants have the same overall goals: (1) inclusion, (2) improved quality of life and (3) self-determination.

Other **Council activities** include:

Collaborating with other advocacy groups to provide an even stronger voice for changing social systems.

Providing testimony in legislative hearings.

Establishing local grassroots committees operated largely by people with disabilities. They are

called "RICCs," for Regional Interagency Consumer Committees.

RICCs Challenge Barriers

There are **more than 50** RICCs across Michigan, meeting with local and state policymakers, challenging community barriers and holding local workshops on everything from building accessibility to get-out-the-vote sessions. RICCs have forged very effective local collaborations to change systems that affect members directly. RICCs are found throughout the state.

For more information on RICCs, the Council and advocacy in Michigan, please call the DD Council office in Lansing.

Our Community Includes Everyone



"The Vision of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council is that all citizens of Michigan must have the opportunities and supports to achieve their full potential!"

MICHIGAN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL



1033 S. Washington Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910

517-334-6123 (voice)

517-334-7354 (TDD)

517-334-7353 (fax)

www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil